

young child may break loose from his social bonds. Yet the process of growth continues, until the comparatively stable social relations of the middle years of childhood are achieved.

To look now at the different directions of group hostility which the school material illustrates :

a. *To strangers and new-comers.*

There is little now needing to be said about this specific type of group hostility. ^It obviously bears an intimate relation to the individual motive of rivalry, and repeats in a more developed form the very young child's first response to all strange children.' But this is heightened in intensity and in toughness by group feeling. It is harder to win a group to be friendly to a new-comer than it is a single child—at any rate after the first four years. If the leader sets the desired fashion, the rest will tend to follow; if he remains hostile, the others of his group will be so too—as long as he is near them. Fortunately, the grown-up in charge is in the long run more influential than even the most effective leader among children of these ages, so that it is not difficult to change the mood of the group towards the new child, at any rate after the first spontaneous expression of suspicion and dislike.

It is very interesting to find so early and so clearly expressed that attitude of hostility towards new-comers with which we are long familiar in older children and in young adults in school or college—or in any close-knit social group. It would thus appear to be not merely a social convention, but a spontaneous and integral mode of human reaction*

In the incident on 10.2.27, Lena voiced unmistakably the child's naive assumption that people " don't like you—because they haven't seen you before ".

I quote only to differ from it, Bridges¹ view

that " if a
child has been scolded and shunned or even
chased by the
group, it is almost as sure a sign of the social
undesirability
of his behaviour as any of his own behaviour
manifestations",
which she applies even to the new child. The
hostile reaction
of a group of young children to new-comers at
least seems to me
quite indiscriminating. As several of my
instances show,
it may be felt and expressed even before the
child has actually
appeared, on mere hearing that he is to
come. It does not